

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**County: Kern and Tulare Counties**

**Applicant: USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Kern River Ranger District**

**Project Title: Review and Study for Possible Revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan of the North and South Forks of the Kern Wild and Scenic River.**

### **PROJECT GOAL**

Recreational use within the Wild and Scenic Kern River corridor has increased as a result of population growth and because of being a special designated area. The goal of this proposal is to determine the need for a change in management that will address congestion of visitors, conflicts between users, impacts to natural and heritage resources and features. This proposal will also address impacts to wildlife, riparian values, soils, water quality, and vulnerability to wildfires. It is not the goal of this proposal to change the Wild and Scenic Designation.

Funding this planning project in the Mount Whitney Region is critical. Southern California continues to grow, providing over thirty million people seeking water based recreation. The Kern River gets high use as the only free flowing river in California. We must provide water based recreation while still protecting land and water resources.

### **PROJECT SCOPE**

This is a proposal to review and study the Comprehensive Management Plan of the North and South Forks of the Kern Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Depending on study results, the Plan will be revised if needed. Upon completion and approval of the environmental review, appropriate new management actions will be implemented and restoration projects will be recommended that will provide the following land and water benefits:

- o Reduction of soil loss and of soil compaction.
- o Sedimentation will be reduced.
- o Water quality will be increased.
- o Wildlife habitat will be improved.
- o Recreational enjoyment will be increased.
- o A diversity of activities will be accommodated.
- o Natural resources in general will be appreciated.
- o Riparian vegetation will be considered.
- o Watershed health will be restored.
- o Cultural resources will be identified and protected.



This project addresses all Sierra Nevada Conservancy program areas with support from local community organizations to protect and preserve the special and unique qualities of the Wild and Scenic River. We have received approximately \$871,000 funding or in-kind contributions to meet these goals. Community support has come from the local Chapter of the National Federation of Fly Fishers, The Mojave Desert-Mountain RC&D Council, SCE, KRVF, California Fish and Game, California Land Management (CLM), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Kernville Chamber of Commerce, Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce, Kern Valley River Trust, and Local Ad-Hoc Community Recreation Committee.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Mojave Desert-Mountain RC&D Council, (RC&D)  
Kern River Valley Revitalization, INC, (KRVF)  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKinney  
Kernville Chamber of Commerce  
Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce  
California Land Management (CLM)  
Kern Valley River Council  
Southern California Edison (SCE)

### SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Studies and Reports (see list below most are to be done collaboratively). A final recommendation or revision to the Comprehensive Management Plan for the North and South Forks of the Wild and Scenic River.	ASSUME START DATE 60 DAYS AFTER SNC BOARD AUTHORIZATION
Water Quality Testing	Summer 2009
Visitor Counts	Summer 2009
Wildlife monitoring	Spring 2009
Riparian Vegetation Surveys	Spring 2009
<b>Cultural Resource Surveys</b>	<b>Spring 2009</b>
<b>Fish Genetic Studies</b>	<b>Summer 2009</b>
<b>River Sedimentation and Temperature Studies</b>	<b>Summer 2009</b>
<b>Recommendation to the Comprehensive Management Plan</b>	<b>Spring 2010</b>



## SNC PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
List below includes costs for staff, tasks, deliverables, and project performance measures.	\$
Initial Project Planning and Development	\$60,000
Surveys and evaluations, public notification and collaboration	\$15,000
Wildlife, heritage resources, water, plant surveys	\$50,000
Review of current law, management plan, and existing study results	\$10,000
Public Meetings	\$10,000
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>